

Recreation Committee

March 30, 2022

4:00PM, Town Hall

Members in Attendance: MaryLou Volpe (MV), Juliana Kuszewski (JK), Kadion Phillips (KP), Cindy Forgit (CF) Annie Roscioli (AR)

Members Absent: Jeff Shapiro,

Others in Attendance: Leigh Darren, Josh Cottone, Carol Goodwin, Ed Goodwin, Lauren Trifone

OPENING OF MEETING MV made a motion to open meeting at 4:00 PM

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES 2-16-22 MV made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by JK. 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Meeting with Open Space Committee.** Recreation Committee welcome the OSC representatives Carol Goodwin, Lynne P, Lauren Trifone.
C. Goodwin stated they give great appreciations to the existing events and projects underway with Rec, and are hoping to continue communications moving forward. The 2018 Open Space Study focused on several larger term items that led to today's conversations. The OSC asked for general support from the Recreation Committee on the project to reopen Streeter Beach. Recreation confirmed they do support this and have provided operational budgets and support to the prior Town Administrator. We hope to see this project move forward. C. Goodwin also discussed the Riverlands property, which needs to be purchased to connect Route 20 to the Stallion Hill Area as well as the Bridge Project underway with WPI students. The OSC requested that Recreation Committee push these items and support to the Board of Selectmen. The OSC touched upon supporting the development of recreation fields, and would like to ask for collaborative efforts in reviewing parcels including Town Barn, Douty, and Podunk. The OSC also mentioned their idea of permanently preserving parcels in busy neighborhoods, including 70 Cedar St. The OSC and Rec Committee discussed conservatory trusts and MV wondered how power of attorney would come into play verse successors. Both parties agreed more information was needed. C. Goodwin shared the OSC wants to bring this to the BOS for their support next. MV stated she appreciates the support for Recreation and today's conversations. No motion was made.
2. **Update Spring Programs**
 - a. **Free Fun Series begins April 2, 2022.** The Free Fun Series kicks off at the beginning of April with a guided trail walk followed by a variety of offerings featuring local fitness instructors. Full scheduled can be found online at www.sturbridge.gov/recreation
 - b. **Spring Bonfire, April 30 2022.** JK confirmed she would be able to run the crafts table.
 - c. **Public CPR Class April 23 2022.** With 14 registered, AR is excited to offer this certifications class to the general public and summer staff once again.
3. **Update on Summer Programs**
 - a. **Last Day of School party with Sturbridge Police Department.** AR provided an update that planning is underway and the last day of school currently is Friday June 17th. The four hour event will feature a DJ, Photo Booth, Bounce House, Foam Pit, Face Painting, pizza/ice cream provided by PD or Rec, and also a mini dodgeball tournament. AR will continue working with the SRO's on this project.
 - b. **Summer Concert Series.** AR is working on finalizing sponsors for the series, the band list was approved at the February meeting.

- c. Outdoor Basketball Leagues. Both leagues begin in June, registration will be pushed heavily in early May.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Soil Testing Proposals.** AR reviewed the existing soil testing proposals and where this project stands. The intent of the project is to analyze existing field conditions and receive a report on field maintenance including equipment and personnel needed. The results of this study would prove the need for field rehabs, potentially turf, and would provide facts to the public on what is needed. The original goal was to seek funding at the June Town Meeting, however Burgess chose an alternative route and did not want to participate in the soil testing project. This testing is needed to obtain accurate information on the condition of existing fields. AR shared that Recreation was requested to provide all three comparable quotes prior to Warrant submittals, which is a new change in policy under the interim TA. This request to obtain comparable quotes was not given with advance enough notice to fit the Warrant timeline schedules. AR continues to work with Tom Irwin Advisors and they offered their assistance to develop a request for proposals and specifics on required criteria. AR also shared that the soil testing project, although started under the guidance of TA and Selectmen and designating Recreation as Staff Lead, did not receive any of the ARPA funding and was not called in to meet with ARPA Committee. Burgess did receive ARPA funding for a temporary fix of infield rehabs. AR vocalized how upsetting this was for Rec to not have been included in receiving any ARPA funds when the Soil Testing Project included Burgess in all discussions since last summer, and went against the advice of the consultants. ARPA funding could have been used for the Soil Testing Project, the original goal of prior Town Admin, or could have included Recreation in the temporary in-field fixes. AR provided that her staff recommendation is to wait until the new Town Administrator begins, to implement their new policies and so there is consistent guidance and communications. AR hopes that the upcoming Town Administrator will provide clarity and support, as AR is not a field expert or professional planner and does not have the expertise to challenge the advice of the consulting group. KP stated he supports the Staff Recommendation and agrees it would be best to wait for consistency before approaching another Town Meeting for Funding. MV also agreed and would hope that the next round of ARP funding would support the Recreation project since it was a request of the Town's. JK shared it would be great to receive ARPA funding for soil testing and not have to approach Town Meeting for additional funding until we were presenting a project. **MV made a motion to hold the request for funding of the soil testing project, KP seconded. Vote 4-0.**

PROPERTY USAGE REQUESTS

1. Sturbridge Town Common, Sturbridge Farmer's Market. Sundays, 6/5/22-10/9/22.
2. Sturbridge Town Common, Southbridge Garden Club. Saturday 5/21/22.
3. Sturbridge Town Common, Federated Church (Public Easter Egg Hunt) Saturday 4/9/22.
4. Sturbridge Town Common, Girl Scouts International Festival, Saturday 5/14/22.

KP made a motion to accept March usage requests, seconded by MV. Vote 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT: MV made motion to adjourn meeting at 5:16 PM. Seconded by CF. Vote 4-0.

Tentative Next Meeting: April 27, 2022 at 4:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Annie Roscioli
Recreation Director